

Preemptive Gerber

Beginnings...

When your partner preempts, he is indicating a hand that has little defense and lots of offense in the form of a long suit.

When the hand belongs to your opponents, your partner has denied the opponents room to investigate their best option. Whether or not the opponents land on their feet, in the long run this is a winning action.

But, sometimes it is you, that your partner has denied room to investigate. The method discussed here will help with those hands that are in the slam range.

The Basic Method...

When partner preempts, and you have slam interest, the following can be assumed...

- 1) Apart from the length of his suit, the significant cards in partner's hand are any A (usually the A of trump), the K of trump, and the Q of trump.
- 2) Sometimes (in a weak 2 especially), partner (the preemptor) will have more than 1 Ace, 2 A's would be the maximum and further if he does have 2 A's, he will not have the K of trump. Therefore the maximum number of Keycards he can have will be 2, not considering the Q of trump's yet.

Preemptive Gerber...

If partner has preempted **2X** or **3X**, where **X** is not Clubs, we define **4C** as **Preemptive Gerber**. To accommodate a preempt in Clubs (ie 3C), we define **4D** as **Preemptive Gerber**. The responses to **Preemptive Gerber** are as follows...

Steps Over	4C(most preempts)	or	4D(over 3C preempt)
1st step	0 Keys		0
2nd step	1 Key without the Q		1-
3rd step	1 Key with the Q		1+
4th step	2 Keys without the Q		2-
5th step	2 Keys with the Q		2+

(where - denies the Q and + shows the Q)

A Last Word...

As far as memory, try to remember what are the important cards in your partners hand, the steps should seem as a logical sequence.